Amendments To The Claims:

1- 43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) A method for inducing apoptosis of the tumor cells in a tumor-bearing patient, comprising

determining that Hedgehog/Smoothened signaling is utilized for inhibition of apoptosis of the tumor cells and

administering to the patient ~~The method of claim 41, wherein the compound to be administered is~~ cyclopamine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in a quantity that is sufficient to induce apoptosis of said tumor cells and to cause decrease of size or disappearance of the tumor.